

Synthesis of running rms-induced non-Gaussian random vibration based on Weibull distribution

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Abstract. Field random vibration is usually non-Gaussian, which makes ordinary random vibration testing unable to simulate the fatigue damage that products will experience in field. A new method is proposed in this paper to synthesize running RMS-induced non-Gaussian vibration based on the probability distribution of running RMS (root mean square), which is simulated by using the two-parameter Weibull distribution. Shock response spectrum (SRS) is used to detect significant transients within signals. The synthesized non-Gaussian signal has the same PSD, kurtosis and PDF (probability density function) as the field data. Fatigue damage spectrum (FDS) is used as another proof of the effectiveness of this proposed new method.

Keywords: non-Gaussian, random vibration, Weibull distribution, fatigue damage spectrum, shock response spectrum.

1. Introduction

Random vibration testing is usually used to bring a test item to failure to identify weaknesses in the product or to verify if the product can survive a particular random vibration environment. Historically, random vibration controllers accomplished this goal by producing a PSD (power spectral density) that would expose the test item to the type of vibratory environment that the test item would experience in a real-world setting. Since PSD does not contain phase information, vibration controllers always assume the phase of each frequency component follows a 0 to 2π uniform distribution when producing time history using PSD. This leads to data with Gaussian distribution, which means an ordinary random vibration controller can't simulate the real vibration environment when it is non-Gaussian. This situation did not change until commercial software which can control kurtosis of data was developed, for instance by Vibration Research Company [1]. Non-Gaussian vibration is usually encountered, especially in the road transportation domain [2, 3]. Actually, the probability of the amplitude exceeding 3σ is only 0.27 % for Gaussian vibration, but up to 1.5 % for field data [1]. This difference may lead to totally different accumulated fatigue damage, because most fatigue damage is caused by 2 to 4σ [4]. When peak value exceeds 3σ , products fail quickly. MIL-STD810F points out that we should always check if the field tested data is non-Gaussian and the testing hardware and software is appropriate [5]. The time waveform replication (TWR) is frequently referred to as a methodology for non-Gaussian testing. The basic idea of TWR is to reproduce a sequence of instantaneous values of the vibration process. Such a test may be non-Gaussian, however this is only a replication of one particular measured record, not a simulation of a specified road type. Besides, MIL-STD810F says that TWR is usually used for controlling of transient signal or short time lasting random vibration [5]. With these drawbacks of TWR, many researchers present some other methods to simulate non-Gaussian vibration. Smallwood used three zero-memory nonlinear (ZMNL) functions to transform Gaussian vibration to non-Gaussian vibration [6, 7]. It was only later when this method was extended and modified into a method that can be used in the closed-loop frequency domain control mode [9, 10]. Steinwolf developed a special phase selection method [8-10]. Rouillard et al. presented a novel technique by which non-Gaussian vibrations are synthesized by generating a sequence of random Gaussian processes of varying RMS levels and durations [11-16]. John et al. studied the

relationship between kurtosis and fatigue damage spectrum (FDS) [17].

A new method is proposed in this paper to synthesize running RMS-induced non-Gaussian random vibration based on the probability distribution of running RMS (root mean square), which is simulated by using a two-parameter Weibull distribution model. Shock response spectrum (SRS) is used to detect significant transients within signals. No sequence of random Gaussian processes of varying RMS levels and durations needs to be generated in this method, which makes it much easier to be implemented than that Rouillard et al. used [11-16]. The synthesized non-Gaussian signal has the same PSD, kurtosis and PDF (probability density function) with the field data. Fatigue damage spectrum (FDS) is used as another proof of the effectiveness of this new method. Effect of correlation time is shown by studying the PSD, PDF and FDS of synthesized non-Gaussian signals using three different correlation times. The process and effectiveness of this new method is illustrated by using a case study.

2. Non-Gaussian

If a Gaussian process has a zero mean value and is ergodic, the PDF $p(x)$ of the instantaneous values $x(t)$ that are realized over a long period of time is given by the Gaussian distribution with zero mean:

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_x} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma_x^2}\right), \quad (1)$$

where σ_x is standard deviation. When $x(t)$ has zero mean, the variance σ_x^2 is given by:

$$\sigma_x^2 = E[x^2(t)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 p(x) dx. \quad (2)$$

Or for large durations T , the variance σ_x^2 is given by:

$$\sigma_x^2 \approx \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T x^2 dt = \int_0^{\infty} G_{xx}(f) df, \quad (3)$$

where $G_{xx}(f)$ is the single-sided PSD.

It shows that random Gaussian processes with zero mean can be completely described by the PSD function.

One useful method for establishing how well a random process can be described by the Gaussian distribution is by computing the higher order moments of the process defined as:

$$m_n = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^n p(x) dx = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N x_j^n. \quad (4)$$

The mean value μ_x can be calculated by m_1 :

$$\mu_x = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xp(x) dx = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N x_j = m_1. \quad (5)$$

When the mean value is zero:

$$\sigma_x^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu_x)^2 p(x) dx = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N (x_j - \mu_x)^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N x_j^2 = m_2, \quad (6)$$

$$S = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\frac{x - \mu_x}{\sigma_x}\right)^3 p(x) dx = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \left(\frac{x_j - \mu_x}{\sigma_x}\right)^3 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{x_j^3}{\sigma_x^3} = \frac{m_3}{\sigma_x^3}, \quad (7)$$

$$K = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\frac{x - \mu_x}{\sigma_x}\right)^4 p(x) dx = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \left(\frac{x_j - \mu_x}{\sigma_x}\right)^4 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{x_j^4}{\sigma_x^4} = \frac{m_4}{\sigma_x^4}, \quad (8)$$

where S is the skewness and K is the kurtosis.

For a truly Gaussian process, the skewness is 0 and the kurtosis is 3.

3. Fatigue damage analysis

RFCC and Dirlik methods are frequently referred to as two methodologies for fatigue damage analysis [18-20].

T. Dirlik [21] established empirical expressions of the probability density of the ordinary half-ranges and those counted with the RFCC method using a digital simulation. The method involved: giving itself a priori an expression of the density, utilizing the spectral moments of order 0, 1, 2 and 4 of the power spectral density of the stress; and then determining the coefficients by minimization of the differences between this density and the histograms determined by considering signals generated starting from 70 spectral PSD of various shapes.

4. Case study

In this case study, a new method for synthesizing running RMS-induced non-Gaussian random vibration is developed and examined by using field data. The field tested signal provided by Kjell Ahlin is from an Ericsson Mast Project and shown in Fig. 1. The test item and setup is shown in Fig. 2.

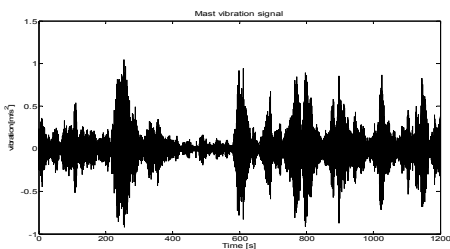


Fig. 1. Field tested signal



Fig. 2. Test item and setup

This is a non-Gaussian signal with kurtosis equals 9.4262, which can hardly be simulated by ordinary random vibration controller. The SRS is calculated from the time history and from PSD. The ratio between these two SRS is shown in db using a third dimension (see Fig. 3).

As we can see from Fig. 3, there are no significant shocks in this signal.

The new developed method first calculates the PSD of field data, with which a stationary Gaussian signal can be generated. Then, an amplitude modulation function (AMF) is created based on the probability distribution of running RMS of field data, which is simulated by using the two-parameter Weibull distribution model. Finally, multiply the Gaussian signal generated before with the modulation signal to obtain the synthesized non-Gaussian signal.

PSD of the field data is show in Fig. 4. Gaussian signal is generated using a smoothed PSD

(see Fig. 4). The PSD of synthesized Gaussian signal is also shown in Fig. 4. The PDF of field data and synthesized Gaussian signal with the same mean value and variance are shown in Fig. 5. As we can see from Fig. 5, the PDF of field data is obviously different from that of synthesized Gaussian signal.

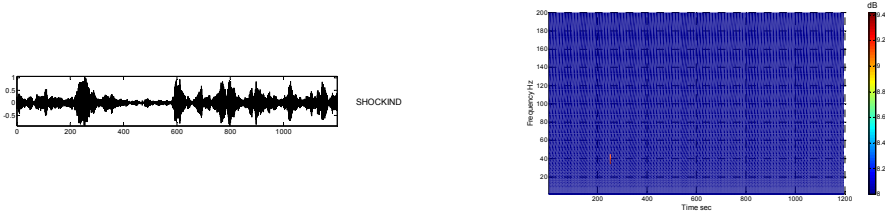


Fig. 3. The ratio between two SRS

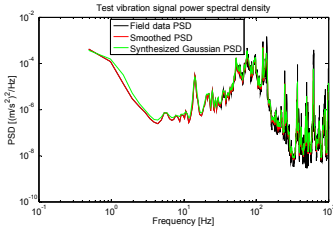


Fig. 4. PSD of field data and synthesized Gaussian signal

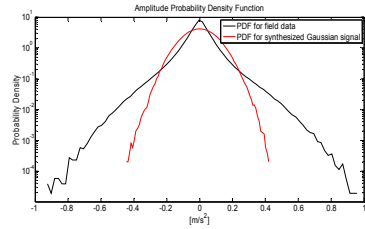


Fig. 5. PDF of field data and synthesized Gaussian signal

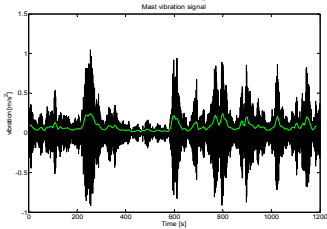


Fig. 6. Running RMS

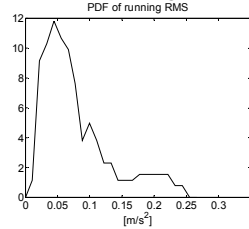


Fig. 7. PDF of running RMS

The running RMS and its PDF are calculated and shown in Fig. 6 and Fig. 7. The effect of different number of bins on the PDF of running RMS is shown in Fig. 8. From Fig. 8 we can see that, despite of the numbers of bins, the PDF of running RMS is similar to the PDF of a given Rayleigh distribution. To be more general, a two-parameter Weibull distribution is used to simulate the statistical distribution of running RMS and to create the AMF. The cumulative distribution function of Weibull distribution can be expressed as:

$$F(x) = 1 - \exp(-(x/L)^K), \tag{9}$$

where x is the random variable, L is the scale parameter, K is the shape parameter.

The AMF is essentially a vector containing elements that follow the same statistical distribution with the Weibull distribution. Different K and L are tested to see the changes of kurtosis. Results are shown in Fig. 9. As we can see from Fig. 9, a large range of kurtosis can be obtained using Weibull distribution. L and K are determined using an iterative method (see Fig. 10). The PDF of resulted Weibull distribution is shown in Fig. 11.

Finally, by multiplying the Gaussian signal generated before with the AMF, the synthesized non-Gaussian signal is shown in Fig. 12, together with the field data.

The PSD and PDF of field data and synthesized non-Gaussian signal are very similar (see Figs. 13 and 14), which proves the effectiveness of the new method for synthesizing running RMS-induced non-Gaussian signal.

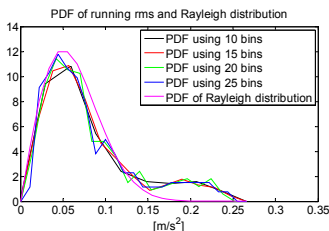


Fig. 8. APD of running RMS using different number of bins and Rayleigh distribution

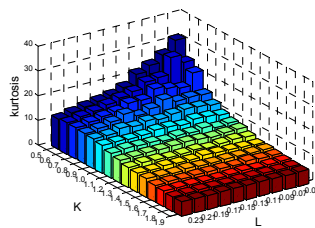


Fig. 9. Kurtosis for different L and K

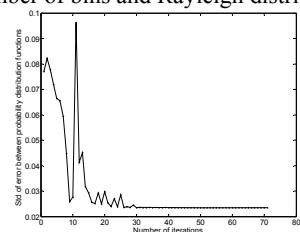


Fig. 10. The iteration to determine L and K

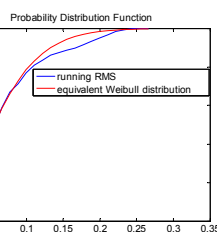


Fig. 11. The PDF of running RMS and Weibull

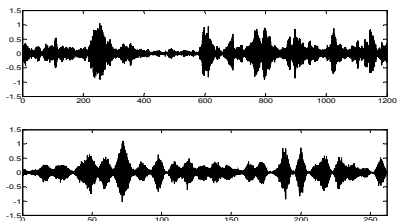


Fig. 12. Field data and synthesized non-Gaussian signal

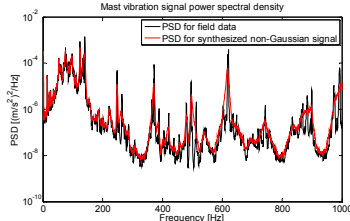


Fig. 13. The PSD of field data and synthesized non-Gaussian signal

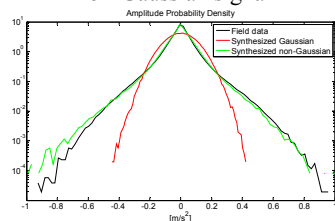


Fig. 14. PDF for field data and synthesized Gaussian and non-Gaussian signal

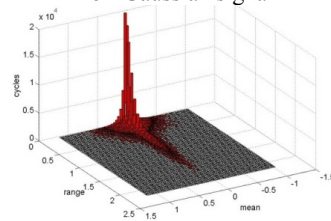


Fig. 15. Numbers of cycles versus mean and range of data

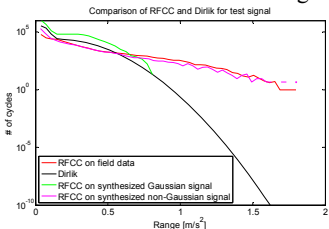


Fig. 16. Number of cycles versus data ranges for RFCC and Dirlik

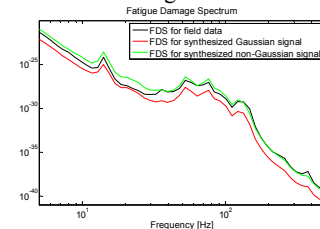


Fig. 17. FDS for field data, synthesized Gaussian and non-Gaussian signal

Fatigue damage analysis is performed on field data. RFCC results are shown in Fig. 15. The plot of number of cycles versus stress ranges is shown in Fig. 16 for field data, synthesized Gaussian signal and non-Gaussian signal. From Fig. 16 we can see that Dirlik method is equivalent to RFCC when dealing with Gaussian signal and can introduce big error when dealing with non-Gaussian signal. Results of RFCC on field data and synthesized non-Gaussian signal are very similar.

FDS is calculated for field data, synthesized Gaussian and non-Gaussian signal (see Fig. 17).

From Fig. 17 we can see that FDS for field data and synthesized non-Gaussian signal are very similar. This again proves the validity of the new method for synthesizing non-Gaussian signal. Besides, we can see from Fig. 17 that larger kurtosis leads to larger fatigue damage.

5. Conclusion

A new method for synthesizing running RMS-induced non-Gaussian Random Vibration is developed and examined by field data. Conclusions are as below:

- 1) This method is limited to the case of running RMS-induced non-Gaussian signals, which contain no significant transients.
- 2) The synthesized non-Gaussian signal has the same PSD, kurtosis, PDF and FDS with field data, which proves the effectiveness of the new method.
- 3) Dirlik methods are equivalent with RFCC when dealing with Gaussian signal and can introduce big error when dealing with non-Gaussian signal.

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